

# CIA Gets Overtures From the Soviets On Terrorism Fight

By WALTER S. MOSSBERG

Staff Reporter of THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

WASHINGTON — Central Intelligence Agency chief William Webster said there have been "very tentative overtures" from Moscow about a possible joint effort between the CIA and its archrival, the Soviet KGB spy agency, to fight terrorism.

But Mr. Webster made it clear at a breakfast meeting with reporters that such collaboration isn't very likely. He said he is extremely wary of the idea because it could compromise U.S. secrets and intelligence-sharing arrangements with other countries. And he stressed that there haven't been any specific U.S.-Soviet discussions about the suggestion or any direct contact on the matter between the two intelligence services.

"I detected very tentative overtures," he said, noting that the idea is "increasingly being suggested and hinted at" by people, "including the Soviets." He added that "at some point we'll be asked to make a recommendation on it."

Mr. Webster declared, however, "I'm not lobbying for it." He said there is "plenty of room" for U.S.-Soviet cooperation on fighting terrorism in ways that wouldn't involve joint intelligence work. "We want to reduce the threat of terrorism," he said, "but there are many other ways to do that other than intelligence agency-to-intelligence agency."

Last month, Secretary of State James Baker and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze agreed to introduce discussions of "transnational" issues, such as drugs and terrorism, into their periodic meetings. But there hasn't been any suggestion that those contacts would extend to actual CIA-KGB collaboration.

Some civilian U.S. agencies already cooperate with Soviet officials on drug and terrorism issues. But conservatives have expressed serious reservations about even these limited non-intelligence contacts, because the U.S. believes the Soviets still aid groups the West views as terrorist organizations.

The Washington Post \_\_\_\_\_  
The New York Times \_\_\_\_\_  
The Washington Times \_\_\_\_\_  
The Wall Street Journal A9C  
The Christian Science Monitor \_\_\_\_\_  
New York Daily News \_\_\_\_\_  
USA Today \_\_\_\_\_  
The Chicago Tribune \_\_\_\_\_

Date 7 Apr. 1 89

STAT